

Claims

[c1] A method for adding devices to a power management control system, said method comprising the steps of:
prompting a user to create a new project;
prompting the user to add devices to the new project;
executing a file to automatically configure the added devices; and
generating screens for the devices added to the project.

[c2] A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of prompting a user to create a new project comprises the step of prompting the user with a Power Builder option.

[c3] A method according to Claim 2 further comprising the step of prompting the user with file selections available for execution, the file selections including a PCMS Power Builder file selection.

[c4] A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of prompting the user to add devices comprises the step of prompting a user to enter at least one of a device name, a device description, a device type, a resource and an application name for the selected device.

[c5] A method according to Claim 1 further comprising the step of prompting a user to enter names and descriptions for the devices added to the project.

[c6] A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of generating screens for the devices further comprises the steps of:
creating points associated with the selected devices;
generating a main menu screen which contains pre-configured small faceplate template wizards for the selected devices; and
generating template wizard screens for the selected devices.

[c7] A power control management system comprising:
a control computer;
at least one intelligent end device interfaced to said control computer for controlling and monitoring power; and

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a software package to control said system comprising a user interface, an applications layer, an operating system and a Power Builder for facilitating automated addition and configuration of user selected intelligent end devices to said power management control system, said Power Builder configured to build external applications onto a power management control project framework, automatically create points associated with selected devices and generate main menu screens for the selected devices.

[c8] A system according to Claim 7 wherein said Power Builder configured to facilitate selection of a Power Builder function.

[c9] A system according to Claim 7 wherein said Power Builder configured to facilitate selection of a device to add to said system.

[c10] A system according to Claim 9 wherein said Power Builder configured to facilitate entry of device data of at least one of a device name, a device type, a description of the device, a resource for the device and an application name for the device.

[c11] A system according to Claim 9 wherein said Power Builder configured to: install an advanced dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol to the project; create a master DDE port for the project; create a resource name; create a DDE device; and import a set of points from a configuration file associated with said intelligent end device.

[c12] A system according to Claim 9 wherein said Power Builder configured with a list of configurable devices, a wizard file, a data file with points to be imported for the device to be added, flags and an event log from an initialization file.

[c13] A system according to Claim 12 wherein said Power Builder configured with a device initialization file.

[c14] A system according to Claim 7 wherein said Power Builder configured to

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[c15] facilitate viewing of configured devices using HMI files.

[c16] A system according to Claim 7 wherein said Power Builder configured with a template wizard to generate a small faceplate for a selected device.

[c17] A system according to Claim 7 wherein said Power Builder configured to update a configuration for the project and restart the project after adding deleting or changing an intelligent end device.

[c18] A computer programmed to:
prompt a user to create a project;
prompt a user to select devices to be added to the project;
configure the selected devices; and
generate screens for the selected devices.

[c19] A computer according to Claim 17 wherein to prompt a user to create a project, said computer displays a computer generated screen with a selectable Power Builder function.

[c20] A computer according to Claim 17 wherein to configure the selected devices, said computer displays at least one computer generated screen prompting a user to enter at least one of a device name, a device type, a description of the device, a resource for the device and an application name for the device.

[c21] A computer according to Claim 17 wherein to generate screens for the selected devices, said computer displays a computer generated screen prompting a user to generate the screens.

[c22] A method for facilitating automated addition and configuration of user selected devices to a power management control system, said method comprising the steps of:
building an external application onto a project framework;
automatically configuring components associated with selected devices; and
generating main menu screens for the selected devices.

A method according to Claim 21 wherein said step of building an external

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application onto a project framework further comprises the step of selecting a PowerBuilder function.

[c23] A method according to Claim 21 wherein said step of automatically creating points further comprises the step of selecting a device to add to the project.

[c24] A method according to Claim 23 wherein said step of selecting a device to add to the project further comprises the step of entering device data of at least one of a device name, a device type, a description of the device, a resource for the device and an application name for the device.

[c25] A method according to Claim 23 further comprising the steps of:
installing an advanced dynamic data exchange (DDE) protocol to the project;
creating a master DDE port for the project;
creating a resource name;
creating a DDE device; and
importing a set of points from a configuration file associated with the device.

[c26] A method according to Claim 23 wherein said step of selecting a device to add to the project further comprises the step of reading a list of configurable devices, a wizard file, a data file with points to be imported for the device to be added, flags and an event log from an initialization file.

[c27] A method according to Claim 26 further comprising the step of reading a device initialization file.

[c28] A method according to Claim 26 further comprising the step of viewing configured devices using HMI files.

[c29] A method according to Claim 21 wherein said step of generating main menu screens further comprises the step of using a template/wizard to generate a small faceplate for the selected device.

[c30] A method according to Claim 21 wherein said step of generating main menu screens further comprises the steps of:
updating a configuration for the project ; and

restarting the project.

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